

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ACDA-10 PM-03 INR-10 NSC-10

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 PRS-01 L-02 AEC-05 USIA-04 NEA-06

IO-03 OIC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /083 W

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P R 112240Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2098

SECDEF WASHDC PRIOTY

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 4873

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: NORWEGIAN DRAFT OPENING STATEMENT

SUMMARY: AD HOC GROUP GAVE PROVISIONAL APPROVAL
TO NORWEGIAN DRAFT OPENING STATEMENT ON OCTOBER 11
AFTER MAKING LIMITED CHANGES.
END SUMMARY.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT,
I SHOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE SATISFACTION THAT
ANOTHER CHANNEL OF EAST-WEST COMMUNICATION HAS NOW BEEN
FORMALLY OPENED IN VIENNA. THE PREPARATIONS FOR NEGO-
TIATIONS ON MUTUAL REDUCTIONS OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS
AND ASSOCIATED MEASURES IN CENTRAL EUROPE- WHICH WE
HAVE NOW INITIATED - HAVE BEEN MADE POSSIBLE AND ARE
INFLUENCED BY THE GENERAL MOVEMENT IN EUROPE TOWARDS
DETENT AND NORMALIZATION. FUTURE AGREEMENTS ON THIS
AND RELATED ISSUES WILL CERTAINLY FURTHER THIS DEVELOP-
MENT AND DEMONSTRATE TO WHAT EXTENT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE
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TO CONVERT DECLARATORY POLICIES, AIMS AND ASPIRATIONS
INTO REAL AND LASTING DETENTE MEASURES.

2. AS IN THE PAST MY COUNTRY WILL CONSISTENTLY

SUPPORT ALL EFFORTS TO FIND WAYS OF LOWERING THE LEVEL OF EAST-WEST CONFRONTATION WHILE INCREASING MILITARY STABILITY AND MAINTAINING UNDIMINISHED SECURITY FOR ALL CONCERNED.

3. THE PRESENT SITUATION IN EUROPE IS MARKED BY UNUSUALLY INTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY, PROMISING EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS AND EXTENSIVE CONTACTS ACROSS THE TRADITIONAL POST-WAR DIVISION LINES. ON THE WHOLE, THE SITUATION IN EUROPE PRESENTS AN IMPORTANT CHALLENGE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WE ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN. THE CREDIBILITY OF THE DEVELOPING POLITICAL DETENTE IN EAST-WEST RELATION DEPENDS ALSO ON REAL PROGRESS IN OUR PARTICULAR FIELD OF INTEREST. MY GOVERNMENT THEREFORE CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT THAT THE RELAXATION OF POLITICAL TENSION REFLECTS ITSELF IN A MORE STABLE MILITARY BALANCE AT REDUCED LEVELS.

4. WHILE WE ARE STRIVING TO REDUCE POLITICAL TENSION AND OBTAIN A LOWER LEVEL OF MILITARY CONFRONTATION; WE MUST MAKE CERTAIN THAT WE ACHIEVE A MORE STABLE BALANCE OF FORCES. WITHOUT THAT, THE PROCESS OF POLITICAL DETENTE WILL BE IMPERILLED. THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY FACTORS IMPLIES THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON REDUCTION OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS CAN ONLY BE REALISTIC AND PRODUCTIVE IF ALL POLITICAL, MILITARY AND GEOGRAPHICAL REALITIES ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, AND THE PREVAILING MILITARY STABILITY IN EUROPE IS NOT IMPAIRED.

5. SUCCESSFUL ARMS CONTROL MEASURES AND LIMITATIONS OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS PRESUPPOSE THAT THE PARTIES INVOLVED ARE ABLE IN THEIR GENERAL APPRECIATION OF THE POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC SITUATION TO DETECT A COMMON INTEREST IN IMPOSING MUTUAL RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR MILITARY FORCES. HOPEFULLY WE ARE TODAY MOVING TOWARDS A GREATER RECOGNITION IN BOTH EAST AND WEST OF A COMMON INTEREST IN ARMS CONTROL.
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6. GENERALLY SPEAKING WE FEEL THAT AS PEACE IN EUROPE IS INDIVISIBLE, THE MEASURES THAT WE ARE AIMING FOR SHOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE TOTAL SECURITY SITUATION IN EUROPE, EVEN THOUGH THE EXTENT OF THE MEASURES MAY BE ADJUSTED ACCORDING TO CIRCUMSTANCES.

7. THESE MEASURES SHOULD FURTHERMORE CONTRIBUTE TO THE DESIRABLE SITUATION WHERE MILITARY FORCES PLAY A LESS IMPORTANT POLITICAL ROLE, AND WHERE COUNTRIES, BECAUSE OF THEIR MILITARY-STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT GEOGRAPHIC POSITION, ARE LESS EXPOSED TO POTENTIAL POLITICAL PRESSURE.

8. ARMS CONTROL MEASURES UNDER CONSIDERATION AT THE CSCE AND THOSE WHICH ARE TO BE NEGOTIATED HERE IN VIENNA SHOULD ALSO SERVE AS A BASIS FOR, AND PROMOTE, AN IMPROVEMENT IN POLITICAL RELATIONS AND THUS PREPARE THE GROUND FOR A SATISFACTORY AND DURABLE PEACEFUL ORDER IN EUROPE.

9. WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO FUTURE AGREEMENT ON THE PRECISE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA FOR REDUCTIONS OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS AND ASSOCIATED MEASURES, WE HAVE AGREED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD FOCUS ON CENTRAL EUROPE. A LIMITED OPERATION COMPRISING A SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHICAL AREA INCREASES THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS. FOR OUR PART WE SHOULD LIKE TO SEE THESE NEGOTIATIONS AS A FIRST STEP IN A LONGTERM PROCESS. FROM WHAT I HAVE ALREADY STATED IT FOLLOWS THAT WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT TO VIEW THE PROCESS OF FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS ALSO IN A WIDER EUROPEAN PRESPECTIVE.

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INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 4873

LIMDIS

10. AS PREVIOUSLY MAINTAINED, THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT VIEWS THE PRESENCE AT THESE NEGOTIATIONS ALSO OF STATES WHO WOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN FORCE REDUCTIONS AND RELATED MEASURES IN CENTRAL EUROPE, BUT WHO ARE MILITARY ALLIES OF THE STATES DIRECTLY INVOLVED, AS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE FACT THAT FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT BEARING ESPECIALLY ON THE SECURITY OF THESE STATES. THIS IS NOT TO DENY THAT THESE MATTERS WILL BE OF CONCERN ALSO TO OTHER EUROPEAN STATES, AND THEREFORE, ANY MEASURES WHICH MAY BE CONTEMPLATED, SHOULD THUS BE ABLE TO PRO-

DUCE GREATER CONFIDENCE IN EUROPE IN GENERAL. ACCORDINGLY,
FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE MUST NOT RESULT IN
DIMINISHED SECURITY FOR OTHER PARTS OF EUROPE. IN FACT,
WE EXPECT THAT THIS BASIC CONSIDERATION WILL BE RE-
FLECTED IN ANY POSSIBLE AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL REDUCTIONS
OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS AND ASSOCIATED MEASURES.

11. BEFORE CONCLUDING, MR. CHAIRMAN, I SHOULD LIKE
TO EXPRESS THE APPRECIATION OF MY GOVERNMENT FOR ALL
EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRIA TO
FACILITATE THE ARRANGEMENT OF THIS CONFERENCE HERE IN THE
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HOSPITABLE CITY OF VIENNA.

END TEXT.
RUMSFELD

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